



Montana Audubon

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Testimony on SJR 19
Fish & Game Committee
February 10, 2009

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

Montana Audubon opposes SJR 19.

The Charles M Russell National Wildlife Refuge, which was initially called the Fort Peck Game Range, was established in 1936. There are two parts of the Executive Order creating the CMR NWR: the first part is recognized in SJR 19. The second part is not recognized in the resolution. The first part says the land is, "reserved and set apart for the conservation and development of natural wildlife resources and for the protection and improvements of public grazing lands and natural forage resources." SJR 19 recognizes this portion of the Executive Order. However, towards the end of the Executive Order, there is a paragraph that reads, "Lands within the exterior limits of the area herein described, acquired, and to be acquired by the United States for...conservation of migratory birds and other wildlife, and...may be utilized for public grazing purposes only to such extent as may be determined...to be compatible with the utilization of said lands for the purposes for which they were acquired." This last paragraph is not reflected in SJR 19.

Because SJR 19 does not accurately reflect the Executive Order in its total, and it leaves out important parts of the Executive Order, we oppose the resolution.

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Bitterroot Valley

Five Valleys
Missoula

Flathead
Kalispell

Last Chance
Helena

Mission Mountain
Polson

Pintlar
Butte • Dillon

Sacajawea
Bozeman

Upper Missouri Breaks
Great Falls

Yellowstone Valley
Billings

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